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LES PRÊTRES DANSEURS DE ROME. Étude sur la corporation sacerdotale des Saliens. Par **RENÉ CIRILLI**. Préface de M. J. Toutain. Paris, Geuthner. 1913.

In this elaborate study M. Cirilli re-examines all the evidence relating to the Salii in the city of Rome and in the municipal towns of the Roman Empire, bringing to bear the material which he feels the excavations in Greece, Crete, and Italy itself have furnished pertinent to his subject. Against those who, like Helbig and Wissowa, see in the Salii priests of Mars, or those who, like Frazer, regard them as priests whose dances were aimed at securing the fertility of the fields, Cirilli seeks to prove that the Salii were originally guardians of talismans in the form of shields, symbols of Mars. He would furthermore regard their origin as connected with the introduction into Italy of the art of working metal, and would derive their dances from the magic dances of Cretan metal-workers, the memory of which was preserved in the legend of the Curetes. The clashing of the arms which was an essential part of the dance would be then an act of a general apotropaic nature, such as is found among many peoples. We may gladly admit that Cirilli has made his theory very probable; but it is only a theory, and the fact is that we do not know, and that probably we never shall know, the truth about the origin of the Salii.

The book is provided with a satisfactory bibliography and a convenient collection of references to the Salii in ancient literature. The appendix containing the pertinent inscriptions has one fundamental defect, for the provenance of the inscriptions is not given. It is incredible that this should be omitted, and it ought to be equally incredible that there should be no index. But an index seems too much to hope for in such a book.

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THE BOOK OF JUDGES and THE BOOK OF RUTH. G. A. COOKE, D.D. The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Cambridge University Press. 1913. Pp. 204+22. 2s. 6d.

THE WISDOM OF JESUS THE SON OF SIRACH, OR ECCLESIASTICUS. W. O. E. OESTERLEY, D.D. The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Cambridge University Press. 1912. Pp. 367. 6s.

Among the least satisfactory volumes in the Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges has been the one on Judges. This has now been remedied by the publication of Professor Cooke's excellent commentary. There is presented here in concise and attractive